

REMARKS

This application is submitted as a US National Phase Application of PCT Application No PCT/IL2005/000139, filed on February 4, 2005.

Claims 1 and 30 have been amended to add in the limitation of five degrees of freedom. Claims 4-6, 8, 10-17, 20, 21, 26 and 27 have been amended to remove the multiple dependent on multiple dependent format in order to comply with U.S. patent practice.

The Examiner indicated in the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority that claims 1-29 (claims 30-36 were not searched) lack novelty and/or inventive step in view of US 5,397,865 to *Park* ("D1"). In view of the amendment to claims 1 and 30, Applicants respectfully disagree with this indication.

Amended claims 1 and 30 include the limitation that the hand held object is manipulated "in at least five degrees of freedom". In contrast, D1 provides a device which is designed to move in an x, y plane (the writing area 125) with only two degrees of freedom. In addition, because the D1 device is designed for writing on a planar surface, there is no motivation to provide at least five degrees of freedom to the stylus as long as the stylus can write on the surface. Therefore, claims 1 and 30, and the claims which depend on them are novel and non-obvious in view of D1.

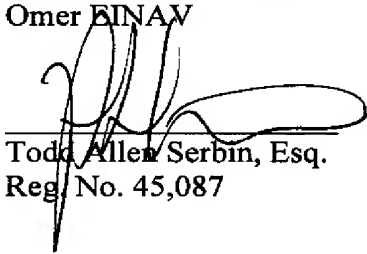
With respect to claim 23, it is noted that D1 does not describe a motion mechanism "that is adapted to change the orientation of the pen relative to the surface". Therefore, claim 1 is novel in view of D1. Additionally, since D1 is focused on teaching a user how to input instructions into a digitizer, there is no motivation or suggestion to control the orientation of the stylus, which is unimportant for the purposes of D1. D3 also does not describe a motion mechanism which can change the orientation of the stylus 102 relative to a surface. Therefore, claim 23 is novel and non-obvious in view of D1 and D3, the references cited against claim 23 in the Written Opinion.

Of the other references, D2-D8, only a couple allude to or describe movement in 3 degrees of freedom or more. For example, D3 (US 6,057,828) describes at col. 15, line 67- col. 16, lines 1-2 a stylus 102 which can be moved by the patient in 6 degrees of freedom. However, there is no description in D3 of a fine motion mechanism which is capable of moving the stylus 102 in this many degrees of freedom. D4 (US 6,061,004) indicates at col. 12, lines 20-32 that "additional and/or different mechanisms can also be employed to provide desired degrees of freedom to user object 12." However, providing movement in at least 5 degrees of freedom is not described nor what the "desired degrees of freedom" would be. In fact, D4 is also focused on a planar, x and y, device (see Fig. 1) like D1, so it's not clear how

other degrees of freedom would be useful. D7 (JP 11-253504) seems to show in Fig. 1 more than 3 degrees of freedom, but the object, in this case a spoon, is not adapted to be manipulated by the fingers of the patient. D8 (WO 2004/050172) seems to describe exoskeleton-type devices which provide movement to the patient a number of degrees of freedom; however, none of the D8 devices include objects intended to be manipulated by the fingers of the patient since they are worn by the patient not grasped. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the claims are novel and non-obvious in view of D2-D8 of the Search Report.

In view of the arguments and amendments made herein, Applicant believes that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner believes that there are problems which would make it impossible to issue an allowance for all the claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 1 (877) 428-5468, which is a US toll free number connected directly to our office in Israel (please note the 7 hour time difference and the official work week is from Sunday to Thursday).

Respectfully submitted,
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